

# Children's Ministry

## January 17, 2020

Do you know what Monday is? Monday is a very important holiday. It is Martin Luther King, Jr day.

How do you think you would feel if you were only allowed to sit in the back of the bus or the back of the room away from the other kids? What if I told you to only drink out of a certain water fountain? What if you had to sit at a different lunch table away from everyone else? You would probably feel exactly like the African American people felt a long time ago. People treated them badly just because they had dark skin. In the south there were laws that were very unfair (called "Jim Crow" laws). They said that black people had to sit in the back of buses and if there weren't enough seats in the bus they had to get up and give their seat to a white person if they wanted it. That doesn't sound very fair does it? There were also laws saying that black people couldn't drink out of the same water fountain as white people. They couldn't eat at some restaurants, they had to sit in the back seats of theaters, and they couldn't even stay at some motels. That doesn't sound very nice, does it? But if the people broke the law and tried to drink water from a water fountain, or use a rest room that said "white's only", or not get up when a white person wanted to sit down, they would be arrested and put into jail. They could also be beaten up or even killed.

Martin Luther King lived in Atlanta Georgia when all this was happening. When he was a young boy, he would listen to his father preach on Sundays about how wrong this was. His father would tell the people that we are all one in Christ. Jesus loves us all and he wants us to treat everyone nicely no matter what they look like, or how they dress, or what color their skin is.

Martin wanted to be just like his father. He wanted to use big powerful words like his father because he spoke the truth and saw that his words gave people hope and made them happy. When he grew up, he became a minister too.

Martin wasn't afraid to speak up and tell people what God put on his heart even when he knew he could be arrested or even killed. Martin spoke out against the bad laws and he showed others how to do it also. He showed people how to fight with words, the truth, and prayer. He knew that words were much stronger than any weapon. He said that "Love is the key to the problems of the world," and that "Hate cannot drive out hate. Only love can do that . . ." He would organize marches. When the police tried to arrest them, they didn't try to fight back. When people threw bottles at them or used fire hoses on them, they didn't try to fight back, instead he told them to stop and pray.

After a long fight the Jim Crow laws were thrown out and new laws were written to make sure that all people no matter what their color, religion, or beliefs were treated the same.

There are still many instances of people being treated badly because they are different, but Martin Luther King was a great help in getting people to realize that the Bible teaches us how to treat others.

He will always be remembered for the work he did to spread God's words or love.

We can use this lesson in our lives. Remember, Jesus loves us all no matter what. And, Jesus wants us to treat everyone nicely no matter what they look like, or how they dress, or what color their skin is.

Father, we thank you for Martin Luther King, Jr. and his willingness to stand up for the truth. Help us to be brave like him. Help us to stand up for what is right and not to judge others by what they look like on the outside. Amen.

Read Luke 6:27-36



“Love is the key to  
the problems of  
the world.”

- Martin Luther King, Jr.



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